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Chairman: Mr. Hart (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Barbados)

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05-59714 (E)

In the absence of Mr. Wali (Nigeria), Mr. Hart (Barbados), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 55: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*) (A/60/111 and A/60/308)

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/60/81-E/2005/68)

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/60/287 and A/60/75)

1. **Mr. Fomba** (Mali) said that, since the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2001, most of the developing countries, including Mali, were implementing national development strategies. However, few of their partners had achieved the objective of earmarking 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product for the development of the least developed countries, which still had only limited access to the markets of developed countries. Because of the rich countries' practice of subsidizing their export crops, many poor countries, including his own, had suffered enormous losses in export earnings.

2. Although some least developed countries had been able to improve their situation, most had made very little progress towards realizing the objectives of the 2001 Brussels Conference. The important midterm review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010, to be held in 2006, should include an assessment of the extent to which commitments had been fulfilled and of the progress made towards achieving objectives. If necessary, proposals should be made to correct the strategies followed. The entire international community, including the United Nations system, should participate in the national, regional and global phases of the review. The necessary financial resources should be mobilized to ensure the success of the review and the full participation of the least developed countries.

3. **Mr. Husain** (Observer for the Islamic Conference (OIC)) said that the Organization generally shared the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Secretary-General on Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/60/81). Regarding paragraph 8 of the report, OIC shared the Secretary-General's emphasis on poverty reduction strategies, which needed to be results-oriented and favour the poor. Regarding paragraph 29, there should be renewed focus on agricultural and rural development; in particular, the least developed countries must increase their exports of commodities and agricultural produce. It was gratifying to note from paragraphs 12 to 20 of the report that progress had been made towards good governance in many of the least developed countries.

4. His Organization had taken a number of actions in compliance with the Brussels commitments. The Islamic Development Bank had continued its special programme of support to the least developed member countries aimed at poverty reduction and economic growth. In the period 2003-2004, the least developed countries' share of global approvals had been 17.5 per cent, and the ratio had been raised to 25 per cent during the period 2004-2005.

5. Among other subsidiary organs and specialized institutions of OIC, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade, the Islamic University of Technology and the Statistical, Economic, Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries had continued to provide technical support to the least developed member countries, especially in the areas of business, trade, training and international information flows.

6. OIC and its specialized and affiliated institutions attached great importance to the Brussels Programme of Action. In the spirit of cooperation with United Nations efforts in support of the least developed countries, a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed recently by the Secretary-General of OIC and the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The

Organization was exploring ways and means of giving more concrete effect to the measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Understanding.

7. **Mr. Sunaga** (Japan) said that promoting trade and investment was the key to achieving sustainable growth because it created job opportunities and sources of income. South-South cooperation, including the promotion of regional trade, could add new sources of financing and develop new export capacities in the least developed countries. Japan had helped to accelerate the interaction between Asia and Africa through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. In 2006, it would hold the fourth Africa-Asia Business Forum in collaboration with the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations. Recognizing the importance of capacity-building, Japan had also provided trade-related training to about 4,900 people from developing countries between 2000 and 2004. Japan hoped to have productive discussions with Member States in the coming months on the modalities for the forthcoming review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action.

8. Participating as an observer at the Meeting of Trade Ministers of Landlocked Developing Countries held in August 2005 in Asunción, Japan had expressed its readiness to cooperate on issues of vital concern to landlocked developing countries. One of those issues was trade facilitation. Japan had been actively engaged in World Trade Organization negotiations in that area. His Government had submitted proposals on GATT Articles VIII and X emphasizing the merits of trade facilitation. It had co-sponsored a proposal on article V, which contained specific measures to benefit landlocked developing countries by promoting the transit of goods.

9. Japan also acknowledged the importance of special and differential treatment, technical assistance and support for capacity-building in the negotiation and implementation phases.

10. **Ms. Brandwayn** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) pointed out that the 2004 issue of the UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report addressed the linkages between international trade and poverty reduction and the combination of national and international policies required to improve the socio-economic performance of the least developed countries. The technical cooperation and capacity-building activities carried out by UNCTAD for least developed countries addressed human resources development and institution-building, including building capacities relating to trade and development.

11. The UNCTAD Trade and Development Board had been reviewing regularly the progress made in implementation of the Programme of Action. At its fifty-second session, held in October 2005, the Board had noted with satisfaction the extensive contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action within its mandates and competence. He expressed appreciation for donors that had been generously contributing to the UNCTAD Trust Fund for the Least Developed Countries, which enabled UNCTAD to better respond to requests for assistance at the country level, including through the Integrated Framework, and to translate the findings of the Least Developed Countries Report into operational activities. UNCTAD intended to increase the impact of its activities on development through national and regional workshops as key pedagogical tools.

12. The midterm review of the Programme of Action should be based on the agreed goals and targets, as stated in paragraph 94 of the Programme of Action. The UNCTAD Least Developed Countries Report of 2002 had provided a preliminary analysis of the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and their relationship with the Millennium Development Goals. The medium-term review should make visible, substantive and sustained linkages between sectoral, national, subregional, regional and global levels of follow-up, implementation and reviews of progress at each level.

13. UNCTAD had begun preparations for the midterm review, focusing on the development of productive capacities of the least developed countries, because a major challenge confronting those countries was to generate new employment opportunities. The next Least Developed Countries Report (2006) would be devoted to that theme. UNCTAD would use the report as a background document for a high-level round table that it would organize in the context of the midterm review.

14. **Mr. Tesfu** (Ethiopia), noting that the progress of the least developed countries, as a group, in meeting most of the goals in the Brussels Programme of Action had been slow and uneven, said that his Government

had placed poverty eradication at the centre of its development policies and strategies, the broad thrust of which was rural growth and the strengthening of public institutions to deliver services. The Government had made a concerted effort to ensure that the poor benefited most from the country's economic growth, with significant achievements in improving governance at the national level and an ambitious decentralization process. Strong emphasis had been placed on gender equality in development and poverty reduction, with the establishment of a ministry dealing exclusively with gender equality and the advancement of women.

15. Ethiopia had given priority to developing human resources and expanding education, with growing participation by the private sector. University intake had doubled in the past three years, and his delegation called on the international community to make up for the lack of adequate resources in developing countries to expand access to and to improve the quality of education. Agriculture was the backbone of Ethiopia's economy, and its development strategy centred on rural and agricultural development. The Government attached great importance to private sector development of agricultural markets, rural microfinance institutions and domestic credit markets, improvement of land tenure security and expansion of transport links.

16. While the share of the least developed countries in world trade was still minimal, even more worrying was their future in the multilateral trading system, as their accession to the World Trade Organization remained a protracted a 1 complex process. Ethiopia called on development partners to provide further support in terms of strengthening the trade negotiating capacity of the least developed countries. Ethiopia had significantly improved its capacity to mobilize domestic financial resources, and welcomed the recent debt cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries and the setting of timetables to reach ODA targets. Ethiopia continued to place emphasis on the need for expeditious implementation of those commitments, and called on all stakeholders to ensure that the midterm review of the Brussels Programme of Action was very comprehensive, based on the guidelines set, and evaluated the implementation of commitments and actions agreed.

17. Progress towards improving the competitiveness of the least developed countries was insignificant. The main priority was fundamental transit policy issues, and Ethiopia was doing its best to harmonize and standardize its policy with its transit neighbours. As for the second priority — infrastructure development and maintenance — his delegation emphasized the need to develop rail connections and to concentrate on areas of the subregion where there were no links at all. The third priority was international trade and trade facilitation, and the main reason for the small share of landlocked developing countries in total world exports and imports was excessive transit transport costs. Efforts had been made by all stakeholders to reduce those costs and speed up customs procedures, but more work was needed to achieve the overall integration of landlocked developing countries into the multilateral trading system. The fourth priority was international support measures; in spite of commendable achievements, international solidarity to address the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours had yet to be translated into concrete action. Turning finally to the fifth priority — implementation and review by the United Nations system — he noted with interest the efforts to develop an internationally acceptable methodology for measuring progress in establishing efficient transit transport systems. Trade and transport were inextricably linked. Unless concrete actions were taken by the international community and the landlocked developing countries themselves significantly to improve transit transport, the world would still be a long way from halving poverty by 2015.

18. **Mr. Gaspar Martins** (Angola) said that the inability of the least developed countries to meet the goals for the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries stemmed from the fact that insufficient resources had been mobilized, despite those countries' efforts to create an enabling environment. Interactive approaches, country ownership and the implementation of the global partnership envisaged in the Brussels Programme of Action were required in order to address the problems of extreme poverty, HIV/AIDS and conflict, as well as geographical disadvantages.

19. His delegation attached particular importance to the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme of Action related to ODA, trade and debt, given the impact of those factors on the ability of the least developed countries to honour the commitments set out in the Programme and in the Millennium Development

Goals. The developed countries should increase the quantity and quality of ODA flows to the least developed countries and support their national development strategies and programmes.

20. The only way to respect the principle of special and differential treatment was to grant quota-free and duty-free access to all products originating in the least developed countries. Such measures could stimulate economic growth and sustainable development. The Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization in December 2005 would provide a good opportunity to make progress towards that commitment.

21. His delegation supported the proposal by the Group of Eight, endorsed by the Bretton Woods institutions, calling for full cancellation of the debt of some countries participating in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. However, much more needed to be done to assist countries that had reached the completion point but continued to experience severe debt-sustainability and debt-servicing problems. His delegation urged the immediate establishment of a framework to operationalize the proposal and urged multilateral and bilateral creditors to find a lasting solution to the debt burden of non-HIPC least developed countries.

22. His country had adopted a Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Poverty aimed at consolidating peace and national unity through sustainable improvement of the living conditions of its most vulnerable citizens and fostering participation in the social and economic development process. The strategy had yielded satisfactory results thus far.

23. It was important to ensure the full and effective participation of all stakeholders in the preparatory process leading up to the comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme of Action to be held during the sixty-first session of the General Assembly. Least developed countries and their partners must commit themselves to conducting a balanced evaluation of the implementation of the Programme, and his delegation looked forward to the continued support of the United Nations system in identifying and documenting the fulfilment of the commitments, good practices and lessons learned and, in particular, identifying obstacles and constraints.

24. **Mr. Sadykov** (Kazakhstan) expressed the hope that the fruitful discussion of the strategy to establish an efficient transit transport system that had taken place at the High-level Meeting on the Role of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations in the Implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, held at Almaty in March 2005, would promote awareness among the interested parties of the urgent need for joint action to implement the Programme.

25. The President of his country had proposed the establishment of a Union of Central Asian States to address common problems facing the region, including the rational use of transit and transport capacity. The International Conference on Strengthening Subregional Economic Cooperation in Central Asia and the Future Role of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, held in Astana in May 2005, had adopted the 2005-2007 Work Plan of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, aimed at improving subregional coordination and cooperation among Governments, international organizations and donor countries. His delegation placed great hopes in the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network and the draft intergovernmental agreement on the trans-Asian railway network.

26. The success of the Almaty Programme of Action would depend on support from the international community, including financial and development institutions and donor countries. Active participation by domestic and external business circles in transit and transport projects in landlocked developing countries would also greatly contribute to the effective implementation of the Programme, and the Sixth Annual Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked Developing Countries, held in New York in September 2005, had proposed the convening of a business forum to that end in 2006.

27. **Mr. Bouchiar** (Morocco) said that, notwithstanding the many economic and political reforms undertaken by the least developed countries to attract foreign investment, they would be unable to attain the objectives of the Brussels Programme of Action and the Millennium Declaration without broad international financial support. The commitment by most of the developed countries to establish a timetable for allocating 0.7 per cent of GNP to ODA would provide some continuity in the availability of financial support for the least developed countries. His delegation also welcomed the decision by the Group of Eight fully to cancel the multilateral debt of heavily indebted poor countries and encouraged the donor community to find

solutions to the debt problems of all least developed countries.

28. In the context of its cooperation with the least developed countries, his country had hosted a special ministerial conference of the least developed countries in Rabat in June 2003. The conference had focused on the economic and social situation of those nations and had emphasized that the international community should honour their commitments to them as a matter of urgency. His country continued fully to support the development efforts of the least developed countries within the framework of South-South cooperation and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Morocco also provided direct support to and was consolidating its cooperation with African least developed countries, granted their exports duty-free and quota-free access to its markets and had cancelled their debt, thereby helping to lay the foundation for a continent united in its determination to share its human and economic resources.

29. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that a lack of capacity and resources continued to hinder effective implementation by countries in special situations of their international commitments and action plans. In order to overcome those hindrances, they needed enhanced partnership and coherent and concerted efforts, including favourable and preferential treatment from the international community. Nepal was both a least developed and a landlocked country, and its efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating poverty and raising living standards had been seriously constrained by protracted terrorist violence. Countries emerging from violent conflicts or from vicious forms of terrorism needed special packages for alleviating their special problems. In view of its special situation, Nepal needed continued support from its development partners, including in poverty alleviation.

30. Nepal welcomed the decision by the Group of Eight to extend debt relief, and called for that initiative to be extended to all least developed countries. In the context of promoting trade for development, development issues must be taken up sincerely and effectively in the World Trade Organization frameworks. Nepal reiterated its call for enhanced technical support and unhindered market access for its products to the markets of developed and developing countries. Noting that the King of Nepal had proposed to develop the country as a transit economy between India and China, which were two of the fastest growing economies in the world, he said that the concept of transit economies could enhance the framework of cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries and help to further economic development in the region.

31. **Ms. Enkhtsetseg** (Mongolia) enumerated some of the challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries and said that the priorities for addressing the needs of those countries were the establishment of efficient transit transport systems, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation and international support activities. The draft transit traffic framework agreement between her country, the Russian Federation and China should ultimately benefit from the renewed commitment of their leaders to the Almaty Programme of Action, preferably at the next tripartite meeting scheduled to start the following week in Ulaanbataar. Her delegation was most grateful for the assistance it had received from its multilateral partners, in moving the draft agreement towards its expected conclusion.

32. She mentioned a number of steps her country had taken to improve its transport infrastructure. They required considerable national investment, international assistance and assistance from public-private partnerships, as well as capacity-building and institutional and policy reform.

33. As a member of WTO, her country was actively involved in the ongoing trade facilitation talks and remained hopeful that the WTO member States would pay particular attention to the special needs of landlocked developing countries with a view to facilitating their fuller integration into the multilateral trading system and making the Doha process a genuine development round. The implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals were interrelated. Goal 8 called for developing a global partnership for development and her country had identified a specific target to address its development needs, arising from its geographical handicap as a landlocked developing country.

34. In conclusion, she cited paragraph 75 of document A/60/287, underscoring the importance of synergy and coordination in easing the development challenges facing the landlocked developing countries.

35. **Mr. Atiyanto** (Indonesia) stressed the importance of addressing the special needs and challenges facing the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States and said that the Committee's deliberations should yield practical recommendations for translating into action the reaffirmations made and agreements adopted at the 2005 World Summit, the Second South Summit held in Doha in June 2005, the Asia-Africa Summit held in Jakarta in April 2005, and the Regional Ministerial Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals: the Way Forward to 2015 held in Jakarta in August 2005.

36. Action was required to ensure international financial flows for development, international financial and trading systems receptive to the needs of those countries and policy space to enable countries to apply appropriate international policy instruments. International support for capacity-building and infrastructure development, including transport, information and communications technology, must continue, and bilateral, regional and interregional cooperation must complement global efforts.

37. His country would continue to respond favourably to the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including through tripartite arrangements and the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation. It had organized training programmes for over 6,000 participants from more than 100 developing countries and regularly provided scholarships for study in Indonesia. Those undertakings would be continued through the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership.

38. **Mr. Al-Hadfa** (Qatar) said that the Brussels Programme of Action for the least developed countries needed to be translated into concrete action. Qatar welcomed the positive steps taken by the Economic and Social Council to encourage all parts of the United Nations system to integrate implementation of the Brussels Declaration into their action programmes. However, the Secretary-General's report in document A/60/81 had concluded that progress had been slow, uneven, and inadequate for achieving the goals of eradicating poverty and achieving sustained growth and sustainable development, and that the number of people living in extreme poverty was projected to rise by 2015. The poor lacked equal access to sources of income, social services, land, credit, information, technology, and participation in policymaking, and those inequities could be corrected only through global, regional and national partnerships with the participation of civil society and the private sector. ODA had been of some help, but the least developed countries still accounted for a small proportion of global trade, lacked sufficient foreign direct investment, depended too heavily on primary commodities, and suffered from limitations on debt cancellation. Qatar praised the efforts of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States to mobilize all parts of the United Nations system for the integrated and coherent follow-up, implementation and monitoring of the Programme of Action. It called on the international community to seize the opportunity to translate the Brussels Programme into reality.

39. **Ms. Beck** (Solomon Islands) said that Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), avian flu and other issues that had emerged since the adoption of the Brussels Programme of Action were diverting resources from its implementation and the rise in the number of States in special situations meant that some least developed countries were receiving more attention than others. All least developed countries should be treated equally and none should be marginalized.

40. Her country was grateful for the assistance it received from various international agencies and United Nations bodies and hoped that coordination between agencies and with Member States could be enhanced. A clear definition of the mandates of each United Nations agency in implementing the Brussels Programme of Action would be helpful.

41. Economic and trade opportunities and special arrangements for countries could not be fully utilized unless those least developed countries had the capacity to create the necessary industries and technologies. She called for increased assistance in building the industrial bases of the least developed countries.

42. The review of the Brussels Programme of Action should focus on: new and emerging challenges, including total debt cancellation or debt-for-Millennium-Development-Goal-project swaps, as advocated by the representative of Indonesia at the 2005 World Summit; national data collection; specific programmes for the least developed countries within the United Nations system; capacity-building through

education; the role of regional organizations in mainstreaming the Brussels Programme of Action into their programmes; infrastructure development; and food security.

43. **Mr. Silva** (Cape Verde) said that his country was preparing its national report for the 2006 comprehensive review of the Brussels Programme of Action and had integrated the main axes of the Programme of Action into the five strategic programmes of its National Development Plan. Reiterating that implementation of the Programme of Action continued to be hampered by insufficient capacity-building and financial resources, he applauded those countries that had met or surpassed their ODA targets for the least developed countries and appealed to those which had not yet done so to fulfil their commitments.

44. South-South cooperation should be viewed as a complement to — not a substitute for — North-South cooperation. His delegation welcomed the action and decisions taken at the Second South Summit in favour of the least developed countries, particularly the Memorandum of Understanding between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

45. Highlighting the importance of trade as an engine for development, he expressed the hope that the Sixth WTO Ministerial Conference would focus on the needs and interests of the least developed countries and agree on a procedure for granting and immediately implementing duty-free and quota-free market access to all their products. He acknowledged the technical assistance and capacity-building provided by UNCTAD and WTO to least developed countries applying for WTO membership and hoped that that the process could be facilitated and accelerated.

46. Referring to chapter IV of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its seventh session (E/2005/33), he welcomed that Committee's innovative decisions, including the introduction of new indicators for the human assets index and economic vulnerability index covering nutrition rate, instability of agricultural production, population size, population displaced by natural disasters and remoteness. That Committee rightly considered lack of economic diversification as an indicator of the exposure to shocks and recognized that small countries tended to be more vulnerable to external shocks than large ones (E/2005/33, paras. 26 and 27). However, the recommended graduation from least-developed-country status solely on the strength of a sufficiently high level of gross national income, without satisfying the other two criteria, could give an erroneous picture of a country's development and/or lead to the graduation of a country whose development was unbalanced.

47. Cape Verde had begun the transition process towards graduation from the group of least developed countries. With UNDP and UNCTAD support, it was studying various strategies for a smooth exit. Strong development partnerships at the bilateral and multilateral levels and among national stakeholders would be vital to ensuring that it could meet emerging challenges.

48. **Mr. Martirosyan** (Armenia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the delegation of Azerbaijan at the previous meeting on behalf also of the delegations of Georgia and Turkey, said that, while every State or group of States had the right to develop and implement projects and initiatives in accordance with its own needs, the portrayal of the new railroad project as a regional initiative to ensure sustainable development and security in the South Caucasus did not enjoy the full support of all regional actors. As such, it was invalid and unacceptable. The proposed new transit system was an exclusively political undertaking that envisaged the construction of a new and costly infrastructure instead of revitalizing the current infrastructure at almost no cost.

49. Unfortunately, it was not true that the project would ensure the unimpeded movement of goods from Europe to all countries of the region and vice versa, as Turkey and Azerbaijan had unilaterally closed the western and eastern borders of Armenia for over a decade in order to exert political pressure.

50. Turkey was wholly unjustified in blockading a neighbouring country after being granted a mandate for European Union membership negotiations. The claim that a European Union body was supporting the project was totally misleading, as no European institution had formulated an approach to it. Moreover, a number of European Governments and structures had called on the participants in the controversial and extremely marginalizing project to lift the blockade on Armenia and enhance regional cooperation on the basis of

existing infrastructure, particularly the Kars-Gyumri railroad.

51. Since attaining independence, Armenia had called for regional cooperation and unimpeded access to regional infrastructure. Regional projects that were politically motivated and did not involve all States in the region could in no way contribute to stability and prosperity. Such divisive initiatives were contrary to the Almaty Programme of Action and would only aggravate the tension surrounding an already complex situation. The international community should not support them.

52. **Ms. Mammadova** (Azerbaijan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, while Armenia claimed to advocate regional cooperation, it was pursuing a policy of aggression against Azerbaijan and occupying about 20 per cent of its territory. Azerbaijan was committed to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action and fully respected its principles and goals, including the principle of friendly relations between nations.

53. Azerbaijan attached great importance to regional economic cooperation and actively participated in transregional infrastructure initiatives. The Baku-Tbilisi-Akhalkalaki-Qars railway connection project, which was largely standard-gauged, economically viable and environmentally sound, had been launched to accommodate growing international trade and, thus, rising transport needs. The project was based on economic interest and was by no means directed against any other State. It was therefore disappointing that Armenia viewed the efforts of a neighbouring State to promote regional development and growth as an attempt to isolate it. Rather than hurl accusations against neighbouring countries, Armenia should face the truth and realize that, with its so-called "geo-strategic location", it had opted out of regional development processes, preferring to remain an occupying Power when that clearly ran counter to the interests of its own population and national development.

54. **Ms. Say** (Turkey), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the representative of Armenia had misinterpreted the significance of the railway connection project and levelled unfounded allegations against her country. Turkey was committed to the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action. It firmly believed that the establishment of regional transport networks and the improvement of existing transport infrastructures strengthened trade cooperation among the countries of the region and promoted economic growth. The new railway connection project, to be implemented in the context of the European Neighbourhood Policy with the support of the Economic Commission for Europe, would meet the growing trade and economic needs of the entire region.

55. The Armenian allegation about a blockade had no legal basis and was untrue. Turkey had declared neither a blockade nor a pacific blockade against Armenia and did not obstruct vessels flying the Armenian flag or carrying commercial goods to Armenia. Armenia used the air corridors running through Turkish airspace without any difficulty, and Turkish and Armenian airlines operated charter flights. Armenian citizens were free to travel to Turkey and could obtain their visas at the border; in fact, a significant number of them engaged in shuttle trade. As a goodwill gesture, Turkey had invited Armenia to become a founding member of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation.

56. Nor was there any legal or physical obstruction of vessels. The Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States guaranteed the right of every State to choose its bilateral and multilateral trading partners. Armenia, however, did not officially recognize its existing mutual borders with Turkey as delineated by the Kars Treaty of 1921. In paragraph 11 of the Armenian Declaration on Independence, the Eastern Anatolia region of Turkey was referred to as "Western Armenia". If Armenia felt that it had no friends in the region, it should reflect on why that might be.

Agenda item 52: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.24 and A/C.2/60/L.26)

Draft resolution on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-third session

57. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.24 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft had been updated to reflect the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in addressing such issues as the development of early warning systems as a response to disasters and support for implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for small island developing States. It mentioned the institutional strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme and of the United Nations Office at

Nairobi. She hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution on the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

58. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.26 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The relatively new resolution sought to give the issue of sustainable tourism its rightful place in the General Assembly's deliberations. It called for the United Nations to enhance its support for the World Tourism Organization in furthering its activities to implement the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism. She hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.20)

Draft resolution on implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

59. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.20. The resolution had been updated to reflect the progress achieved and the key decisions made at the thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and to highlight recommendations on the preparatory work to be undertaken in anticipation of the Commission's fourteenth session. It also referred to the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and stressed the linkage between Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

60. The word "document" should be deleted from the third preambular paragraph. The fourth preambular paragraph should read: "*Recalling* the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome," The phrase "the principle of" should be inserted after "inter alia" in the eighth preambular paragraph.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.21)

Draft resolution on follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

61. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.21, which had been updated to take into account the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Mauritius in January 2005, and follow-up action, including the adoption of General Assembly resolution 59/311, the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and, in particular, the decision of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its thirteenth session to devote one day of its review sessions to the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy. She hoped that Committee members would support the text, as they had in previous years.

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.25)

Draft resolution on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

62. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.25 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, Japan and Mexico. Because of recent extreme weather events, the draft attempted to reflect the intensive effort undertaken at the national, regional and international levels to address such phenomena and to implement the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. The draft contained a strong reference to the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in January 2005, and to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. It also recalled the development section of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, highlighted activities in three developing country regions and anticipated the Third International Conference on Early Warning, to be held in March 2006.

63. In the second preambular paragraph, the words "and their increasing impact" should be inserted after "disaster". In the sixth preambular paragraph, the words "especially in developing countries" should be deleted. In the eighth preambular paragraph, the words "in particular" should be replaced by "and its relevant provisions". The last preambular paragraph should read: "*Recalling* the development section of the 2005

World Summit Outcome". Paragraph 19 should be amended by the insertion between commas of the words "as appropriate" after the word "reduction". In operative paragraph 20, the semi-colon after the word "information" should be deleted.

64. She expressed the hope that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.23)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

65. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.23 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft was very similar to General Assembly resolution 59/234, and had been updated to take account of the outcomes of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in December 2004, the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, held in September 2005, and the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in January 2005.

66. In the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "section II on development" should read "the development section". The draft resolution referred to meetings to be held in November and December 2005 in Montreal, Canada; she expressed the hope that the General Assembly would send a good signal to those meetings by adopting the draft by consensus.

(e) Sustainable development in mountain regions (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.19)

(i) Rendering assistance to poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.19)

Draft resolution on sustainable mountain development

67. **Mr. Gass** (Switzerland) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.19 on behalf of its sponsors. The biennial resolution reflected a strong North-South partnership and dealt with the opportunities and challenges related to mountains and mountain populations. Its text embraced the concerns expressed in General Assembly resolution 59/238 and contained new paragraphs reflecting the recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General on the status of sustainable mountain development (A/60/309) and the Mountain Partnership's Declaration of the Andes of 29 October 2004. It gave prominence to the need to eradicate poverty and promote and support the sustainable development of mountains and to make use of a wide array of instruments to that effect. He hoped that it would receive strong support and be adopted by consensus.

68. **The Chairman** announced that Bhutan, Cameroon, Haiti, Malawi and South Africa had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

(h) Convention on Biological Diversity (*continued*) (A/C.2/60/L.22)

Draft resolution on the Convention on Biological Diversity

69. **Ms. Gordon** (Jamaica) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.22 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution had been updated to take account of activities and progress in the areas covered by the Convention, including work on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. It reaffirmed the commitment to respect traditional lifestyles relevant to biological diversity and the need to implement the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In the second preambular paragraph, the words "the section on development" should be replaced by "the development section". She hoped that the draft would be adopted by consensus.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.